From: Jean Leventhal
To: Devereux, Jan
Subject: Re: Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions at April 23 City Council
Date: Monday, April 23, 2018 9:20:26 AM

Thanks, Jan! I was thinking about civil disobevience--blocking ICE agents--but I guess funding is safer...

JHL

On Sun, Apr 22, 2018 at 1:13 PM, Devereux, Jan <jdevereux@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

> Check out this page on the Cambridge Community Foundation website.
>
> http://cambridgecf.org/cambridge-legal-defense-fund-immigrants/
>
> Jan Devereux
>
> Vice Mayor
>
> Cambridge, MA
>
> jdevereux@cambridgema.gov
>
> For updates on City Council issues and events visit http://jandevereux.com/
>
> *All emails to and from this City address should be considered subject to Massachusetts Public Records Laws.*
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Jean Leventhal <jean.leventhal@gmail.com>
> **Sent:** Sunday, April 22, 2018 9:23:49 AM
> **To:** Devereux, Jan
> **Subject:** Re: Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions at April 23 City Council
>
> Thank you for the thoughtful and thorough response. I am relieved that this is not before the Council. I don't think it is our city's role to be involved in the mess in the Middle East. As I mentioned I was suspicious that the letter had no contact information.
>
> I am much more concerned with what is happening to immigrants at this time at the hands of Trump's ICE forces. Did you see the piece in The NY Times on Friday? Not even marriage to a US citizen protects them, and ICE is tearing families apart. Horrendous. Is there

anything an ordinary citizen like me can do?

Best, Jean

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 21, 2018, at 5:56 PM, Devereux, Jan <jdevereux@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

> There's been a good deal of misinformation about a boycott resolution from both sides. It's not before the Council and I doubt it will be, or that it would pass if it was.
>
> The suggestion for a boycott was brought to councillors individually by Cambridge residents interested in protecting human rights and promoting peace. Some of them are highly respected and longtime residents who have worked for years for civil rights, peace and disarmament movements. Some of them are Jews and the children of Holocaust survivors, some are immigrants who have lived in non-democratic nations.
>
> Contrary to what is being said, there has been no discussion of the BDS issue by the Council as a body. In fact due to the state's Open Meeting Law a majority of councillors (that is, more than 4 of us) may not deliberate with each other outside of a public meeting including by email or in sequence.
>
> Every councillor meets with residents and community members all the time to listen to their ideas and concerns and to discuss possible actions to address them. This is a big part of our job. Never in my time on the Council, albeit brief as it is, has the mere act of listening and discussing a policy idea with residents provoked such an intense misinformation and lobbying campaign by those opposed from all corners of the world. The flyer mailed citywide informing residents to "reject hate" was sent and paid for by a group from Los Angeles. At the same time we have also heard from Cambridge residents, many of them Jews, who have encouraged us to boycott HP products (not Israel itself) because they are used by ICE agents and in US prisons as well by Israeli security forces.
>
> My colleagues and I have been unfairly accused of being simultaneously anti-Semtic and political cowards for being willing to consider suggestions from other residents about what actions could be taken to restore peace and protect human rights in a region that has been in violent conflict longer than I've been alive.

It has been a discouraging and difficult week both professionally and personally.

Jan

Jan Devereux

Vice Mayor

Cambridge, MA

jdevereux@cambridgema.gov

For updates on City Council issues and events visit http://jandevereux.com/

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From: Jean Leventhal <jean.leventhal@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2018 2:10:49 PM
To: Devereux, Jan
Subject: Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions at April 23 City Council

Dear Jan,

I am not a 100% supporter of the Israeli government, but I am disturbed by the implications of 2 pieces of mail I received today, Saturday, April 21, about an upcoming resolution before the City Council, that apparently (the mailings are somewhat vague) seeks to have the Council "break off contracts" with a company, HP Enterprises, for doing business in Israel, because of policies affecting the Palestinians.

I do not think this kind of Boycott and Sanctions effort is the way to help the situation in the Middle East, and I am also not happy that the people behind this resolution managed, according to the letter from Jeremy Burton, Executive Director, Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston (no phone number or address--hmmm) to prevent councilors from sharing the resolution

> with the public "until days before the meeting."
>
> What's the story? How much of this is true, or is it an attack of "fake news"?
>
> Best, Jean Leventhal